

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a cover for covering a vehicle airbag, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a three-dimensionally molded airbag cover;

determining a first distance between a processing edge of an ultrasonic processing mechanism and a predetermined location on the ultrasonic processing mechanism;

determining a second distance between a processing surface of the airbag cover and the predetermined location on the ultrasonic processing mechanism; and

forming a tear line with a predetermined depth within the thickness of the airbag cover by ultrasonic processing.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 [[2]], further comprising the step of estimating the depth of the tear line based on the determined first and second distances.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 [[2]], further comprising the step of estimating the residual thickness of the cover at the tear line based on the determined first and second distances.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 [[2]], wherein the first distance is calculated between the edge of a blade and the predetermined location.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] method of producing a cover for covering a vehicle airbag, the method Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

providing a three-dimensionally molded airbag cover;

providing an ultrasonic processing mechanism, wherein the ultrasonic processing mechanism comprises a meter that measures distances;

determining a distance between the meter and a processing edge of the ultrasonic processing mechanism;

forming a tear line with a predetermined depth within the thickness of the airbag cover by ultrasonic processing.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the distance between the meter and the processing edge is determined by subtracting a distance between the processing edge and a surface from a distance between the meter and the surface.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein the surface is a surface of a reference block.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the processing edge is a blade edge.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of determining a processing depth for the ultrasonic processing mechanism.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the processing depth is determined by subtracting a distance between the meter and a surface of the airbag cover from the distance between the meter and the processing edge.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein a plurality of detection points is used to determine the distance between the meter and a surface of the airbag cover.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of determining a residual thickness of the airbag cover.